

**CLARK COUNTY  
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION  
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, June 5, 2002  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Clark County Public Works Department  
Conference Room  
4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, Washington

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**Call to Order**

*Roll Call:*

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen, Judy Schramm, Don Steinke, and Art Stubbs

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Dana Kemper

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Earl Rowell, and Henry Schattenkerk

*Introduction*

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and guests were introduced. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stubbs.

*Agenda and material review*

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 6/5/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda;
2. 4/3/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes;
3. 5/16/02 Clark County Board of Commissioners and Clean Water Commission Luncheon Agenda;
4. 5/16/02 Clark County Board of Commissioners and Clark County Clean Water Commission Chief Points;
5. FYI Online: In the news, Sammy Awards recognize outstanding local efforts to save salmon;
6. Appendix A, Clark County Clean Water Commission Program Planning Overview;
7. E-mail from Rod Swanson to Earl Rowell dated 5/21/02 regarding Ecology News Release;
8. Washington Department of Ecology, Water Cleanup Plans;
9. Black and Veatch, Stormwater Utility Survey, 2001-2002
10. Clean Water Fund #4420 Budget Report Period Ending: April 30, 2002;
11. Clark County Citizens Care About Clean Water;
  - Watershed Stewards First Quarter Report;
  - Education Program Summary Update

Mr. Bourlet asked if the BOCC would be considering any of the topics that were brought up at the luncheon in May between the Clean Water Commissioners and the BOCC?

Mr. Rowell: I think that they consider a variety of topics such as.

- Having the Clean Water Commission hold meeting in various areas of unincorporated Clark County;
- Looking at various different methods for billing citizens the clean water program fee; and
- Educating the citizens of Clark County on the clean water program.

#### *4/03/02 notes*

The notes from the 4/3/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written.

#### *Updates and Communications from the public, media or other agencies*

Mr. Rowell informed the Commissioners that the Auditor's office would be sending out a copy of the clean water program audit.

Mr. Rowell indicated that their focus was on two objectives:

1. Is the clean water program fee computed and invoiced in accordance to the Clark County ordinance? The Auditor's finding was that the clean water program fee was computed and invoiced in accordance to the Clark County ordinance.
2. An assessment was made of the effectiveness and timelines of the program collection procedures for delinquent fees.

According to the Auditor's office, they found that the clean water program fees were calculated in accordance with Clark County ordinance however the database collections were not easy to determine.

Mr. Rowell: The Treasurer's office states that the clean water program has collected about 95% of the adjusted revenue for 2000-2001.

Mr. Bourlet: Did they address the clean water program at all? I don't care about the financial part of it.

Mr. Rowell: There are four objectives to this audit. They are currently focusing on the first two objectives that cover the financial aspects of the clean water program.

Upon Mr. Agard's arrival, Mr. Stubbs resigned as chair and Mr. Agard became the chair of the meeting.

Mr. Stubbs: If the Treasurer's office updates the billing system are we going to be billed proportionally?

Mr. Rowell: The Clean Water Program should only pay its proportional share.

Mr. Rowell reviewed the Black and Veatch report with the Clean Water Commissioners which compared various jurisdictions to the Clean Water Programs.

#### *Public Input*

There was no public input

#### *May 16 Luncheon with BOCC:*

Mr. Rowell reviewed some of the chief issues that were brought up during the luncheon such as:

- Does the left hand of county know what the right hand of county is doing? For example do we know what is going on at the Dept. of Community Development? Mr. Rowell stated that we are trying to create greater uniformity with the various departments in the county.
- Mr. Agard brought up the issue of having fewer requirements for less imperviousness in rural centers. Mr. Rowell suggested having a staff member from the Department of Community Development address the Clean Water Commissioners in order to provide a better understanding of these issues.

- Mr. Kemper noted that as the NPDES permit requirements increase, there would be increases and requirements for the county and the community, which raises the question of whether this will generate a higher clean water program fee. It was noted that at this time, the rate will remain the same but there are no guarantees.
- Commissioner's Pridemore and Stanton stressed for more education and a better understanding of the Clean Water Program.

#### *Education Update*

Mr. Rowell updated the Clean Water Commissioners on some of the various educational programs County staff are working on such as:

1. Science in the parks, a coordinated effort with the City of Vancouver, to run during the summer months, designed to give children a better understanding of their own "backyard".
2. Coordination with the City of Vancouver, to utilize the Water Resource Center and other facilities.
3. Working with Cooperative Extension and the small acreage landowners (hobby farms).
4. School Clean Water Fee Waiver Program: Schools receive a waiver from the clean water program fee if they participate in a set of education and outreach activities.

Mr. Ek requested the amount of dollars necessary to fund these activities.

Mr. Rowell will provide that information and stressed that our goal is not to duplicate efforts of other organizations but to be complimentary.

Mrs. Martin: Should we as a Commission address the issue of car washes?

Mrs. Rasmussen: We are teaching them one thing in the classroom and another by letting them have car washes.

Ms. Schramm remarked that there are environmentally friendly solutions available for people to use and they may even have them for car wash purposes.

Mr. Agard suggested putting it on the agenda for a future meeting and then come up with an action plan.

Mr. Bourlet: About six months ago, we as a commission, felt it was a good idea to support SWERP. I have not heard or seen anything from County staff to help SWERP, why is that?

Mr. Rowell: Because SWERP has made quite a few changes over the last year and there was a concern of whether they would even exist as an organization. They have moved from the Oregon Graduate Institute to Portland State University. We are still looking at SWERP to enhance our educational programs.

Mr. Rowell handed out the first quarter Watershed Stewards report and noted that Mr. Bock will attend a future Clean Water Commission meeting to give an update on the Watershed Steward program.

Mr. Rowell: In your packet of materials you have a copy of the flyer that will accompany the clean water program fee that is scheduled to be mailed June 14, 2002.

Mr. Agard commented that he would like to have seen something on the flyer about the Watershed Stewards program and when the next scheduled classes would be held.

Mrs. Rasmussen stated that she participated in the LaCenter arts festival with the garden club, in which Cindy Meats brought some different educational brochures to hand out. The most popular brochure was the Natural Yard and Garden booklet; people were even willing to pay for them.

#### *Budget Update*

Mr. Rowell: Reviewed the current budget report from April 30, 2002.

Mr. Rowell asked the Clean Water Commissioners for their recommendations regarding what they would like to see in the budget for 2003-2004.

Mr. Agard: When would you like this information?

Mr. Rowell: I would like to take this information back to Mr. McCauley towards the end of July. Would this group like to form a sub-committee to go over budget items?

Mr. Stubbs: I think it is a great idea. Should we arrange a special work session?

Mr. Agard: I would like to see this information go to Mr. McCauley following the August meeting to give the Commissioners more time to review the information.

**Mrs. Martin proposed Motion 2002-0605-04: I move that this Commission meet on June 19, 2002 at 6:00 for a work session dedicated to the budget only.**

*Motion passed by all present Clark County Clean Water Commission members.*

Mr. Bourlet requested the floor to make the following announcement:

As of 06/06/2002 I will be resigning from the Clean Water Citizens Commission. I find that I do not have the time that I feel is required to be on the Commission. For I feel that it is required to be more active than just once a month at the meetings. I would like to thank the Commissioners for giving me this opportunity to serve and help to get to this point we are now, however I do feel that a new person may help move us further ahead faster. Please note that I do not feel that the county at this time has a viable education plan for the citizens of Clark County. I would hope the Clean Water Commission would encourage the county to develop a training plan than hire a contractor to build a plan. Water testing – I would hope that the county would develop a plan for testing and hire a contractor to do the job than build their own laboratory. I find it very interesting that when I asked a Clark County Commissioner about the fee for a private citizen to improve the wet land the answer was that is just the beginning of the fees and never addressed the \$500.00 fee in the first place. At this time I do not feel that Clark County cares one iota about the citizens only about keeping the organization moving ahead and getting bigger. I would like to Thank Earl, Kelli and Sam for helping me get educated.

Mr. Stubbs: For the record I would like to thank Mr. Bourlet for your participation on the Clean Water Commission.

All Commissioners expressed thanks to Mr. Bourlet for his participation on the Clean Water Commission.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

There will be a Clean Water Commission Work Session held Wednesday, June 19, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. location to be announced.

The next Clean Water Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 3, 2002 at 6:00.

*Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost*

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